

would seem, to be sung in harvest evenings; or if conversation is simply engaged in, is it not for the most part a rehearsal by the men-servants of supposed feats accomplished by them at this or that place? of the relative merits of the horses and harness? and the peculiarities of the different masters and mistresses they may have served, together with the different sorts of treatment they have themselves experienced? The same thing will still further appear, if we consider what in general is the great object of ambition with the agricultural servant. This may be seen even in very early life. The ruling passion of the agricultural boy is to become a *horseman*, and as such to resemble his seniors. So strong is this predilection, that a mere stripling in a feeing market will disdainfully entertain a proposal to do anything else than work horses—more especially to attend upon cattle—till once he finds that his favourite object is for the time unattainable. And when once a pair of horses is got hold of, these, with their accoutrements, must hereafter bear an exact correspondence with the growing proficiency of the youth. The *summum bonum* of even a full grown farm-servant's wishes may be briefly stated to be a pair of good horses to work—good harness—a good plough—and a master who shall not attempt to exercise any moral control over him, but pay him his wages when they become due. The primary cause of this ignorance may be stated to be a want of better education in early life. Farm-servants are generally descended from the very poorest of the rural population. Their parents are either small crofters, married cottagers, unmarried farm-servants, or villagers; and these, for the most part, have neither ability nor inclination to give a sufficient education to their offspring. What they do give is merely elementary—barely enough to enable them to write so as that it can be read by others; and to read so as themselves to understand the plainest sort of books. As for arithmetic or mathematics, they get little or nothing. Poverty often compels the parents to take their children from school (generally the parish school), and send them adrift into the world to do for themselves before their education be well begun; and all the superintendence exercised by the parents at this time, or subsequently, is seeing for a few times, that their boys get fee'd to good masters, *i.e.* those who will